FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 07/27/2022 05:43 PM INDEX NO. 706898/2022 Page 1:23-cv-02233-EK-RML Document 1-5 Filed 03/22/23 Page 1 of 72 Page 1.567/27/2022

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS			
M&T BANK		:	^
	Plaintiff,	:	
		:	Index No. 706898/2022
-against-		:	NOTICE OF MOTION TO DISMISS
BLANCA LUCIANO,		:	
	Defendant.	:	V
			X

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that upon the annexed Affirmation of Matthew Schedler, ESQ., dated July 27^{th.} 2022, Affidavit of Defendant Blanca Luciano, sworn on July 25th, 2022, Exhibits, Memorandum of Law, and upon all the proceedings had and papers filed previously herein, the Defendant will move this court located Queens Supreme Court before an IAS part to be assigned, in the State of New York on the 23rd day of August 2022, at 9:30 or as soon thereafter as counsel can be heard, for an Order:

- dismissing all of Plaintiff's claims under CPLR Rule 3211(a)(5) as time barred by the four-year statute of limitations imposed by N.Y U.C.C § 2-725(1), and under CPLR 3211(a)(7) for failure to state a claim.
- granting such other and further relief as this Court sees just and proper, including, but not limited to reimbursement of costs and disbursements.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that pursuant to CPLR 2214(b) Defendant demands that answering affidavits and any notice of cross-motion, with supporting papers, if any, be served at least seven (7) days prior to the time at which this motion is noticed to be heard.

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Dated: July 27, 2022 Brooklyn, New York

Respectfully Submitted,

By: Matthew Schedler Esq., Of Counsel Elizabeth Miller, Esq., General Counsel CAMBA Legal Services, Inc. 20 Snyder Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11226 (718)-940-6311, ext 79284 Attorneys for the Defendant

TO: Rupp Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham LLC Kyle C. DiDone, Esq. 1600 Liberty Building Buffalo, New York 14202 (716) 854-3400 Attorneys for Plaintiff FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 07/27/2022 05:43 PM

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COUNTY OF QUEEN		F NEW YORK	
		X	
M&T BANK		:	
	Plaintiff,	:	
		:	Index No. 706898/2022
-against-		:	AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO DISMISS
BLANCA LUCIANO		:	
	Defendant.	:	
		X	

Blanca Luciano, being duly sworn, deposes and says that:

- I am the Defendant in the above-captioned action. I submit this Affidavit in support of
 my Motion to Dismiss. This Affidavit is based on my own knowledge and on the annexed
 exhibits.
- On or about August 22, 2015, I entered into a retail installment contract with Star Hyundai, LLC for the purchase of a 2016 Hyundai Santa Fe. Exhibit A.
- 3. I am 40 years old and a mother to four children. I purchased the car in order to travel to my employment as a medical assistant at a pediatrician's office, and to drive my children to school and other activities.
- 4. My work hours were cut, and I was unable to continue making payments on the car. In order to avoid defaulting, I contacted M&T Bank and informed them of my financial situation. I was told by M&T Bank that I should voluntarily surrender the vehicle, which I then did. After doing so, I was told by M&T that I no longer owed money, so I ceased making my monthly payments.
- 5. The first payment I missed on was due on February 6th, 2018.

- 6. After I surrendered the car, I did not receive any communications regarding the Contract or the Vehicle, including any notices required under N.Y. Pers. Prop Law § 316, N.Y. Gen. Oblig. Law § 7-401, N.Y. U.C.C. § 9-611, or N.Y. U.C.C. § 9-616.
- 7. On March 30th, 2022 Plaintiff M&T Bank started this case by filing a Summons and Complaint. Exhibit A. On June 13th, 2022 I was personally served with the Summons and Complaint at my apartment. Exhibit B. On June 22nd, 2022, I filed an Answer *pro se*, attached as Exhibit C. After doing so I called 311 looking for legal support, and was directed to CAMBA Legal Services. On June 24th went to CAMBA Legal Services, a non-profit legal services provider to discuss my case. After my intake, CAMBA agreed to represent me. My attorney from CAMBA entered a Noticed of Appearance on June 24th, 2022 and submitted an Amended Answer on July 7th, 2022. Exhibit D.

8. In my Amended Answer I raised a Statute of Limitations as a defense. Exhibit D

Blanca Luciano

Sworn to me on this 25th day of July, 2022

Notary Public

MATTHEW AUSTIN SCHEDLER
NOTARY PUBLIC, State of New York
No. 02SC6197762
Qualified in Kings County
Commission Expires January 12, 2025

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COUNTY OF QUEEN	OF THE STATE OF NE NS	W YORK	
		X	
M&T BANK		:	
	Plaintiff,	:	
		:	Index No. 706898/2022
-against-		:	AFFIRMATION IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO DISMISS
BLANCA LUCIANO		:	
	Defendant.	:	
		X	

Matthew Schedler, an attorney duly admitted to the practice of law in the State of New York, hereby affirms under CPLR § 2106 and the penalties of perjury states that:

1. I am a Supervising Attorney with CAMBA Legal Services, Inc. attorneys for Defendant, ("Defendant" or "Ms. Luciano") and as such I am fully familiar with the facts and circumstances underlying this proceeding. I make this affirmation in support of the Defendant's Motion to Dismiss under CPLR § 3211(a)(5) and CPLR § 3211(a)(7). The facts set forth below are in my personal knowledge, except for those stated upon information and belief based on the affidavit and exhibits attached.

Procedural History

- 2. On March 30th, 2022, M&T Bank commenced this action by filing a Summons and Complaint. A true copy of the Summons and Complaint is attached as Exhibit A. The Complaint seeks \$16,922.12 plus attorney's fees for an alleged deficiency on a car sale. *Id.* The Complaint alleges two causes of action; one for Breach of Contract, and one for Unjust Enrichment.
- On June 13th, 2022 Ms. Luciano was personally served with the Summons and Complaint at her apartment. A true copy of the affidavit of service is attached as Exhibit B.

- 4. On June 22, 2022, Ms. Luciano filed a *pro se* Answer. A true copy of Ms. Luciano's *pro se* Answer is attached as Exhibit C. She then called 311 looking for legal support and was referred to CAMBA Legal Services. Luciano Aff. ¶ 7. On June 24th she went to CAMBA Legal Services, a non-profit legal services provider, to discuss her case. *Id.* After her intake, CAMBA agreed to represent her. Her attorney from CAMBA entered a Notice of Appearance on June 24th, 2022 and submitted an Amended Answer as a right 15 days later on July 7th, 2022. A true copy of Ms. Luciano's Amended Answer is attached as Exhibit D. In her Amended Answer Ms. Luciano raised a Statute of Limitations defense. Exhibit D ¶ 23.
- Since appearing in the action M&T has provided Ms. Luciano with a more legible version of the contract they attach to the complaint as Exhibit A. A true copy of that contract is attached as Exhibit E.

Factual Background

- 6. On or about August 22, 2015, the Defendant ("Ms. Luciano") executed a Retail Installment Contract (the "Contract") to purchase a 2016 Hyundai Santa Fe (the "Vehicle"), from Star Hyundai, LLC ("Star Hyundai"). Exhibit E. The cash price of the vehicle was \$38,866.52 to which a \$1,750.00 down payment was credited. *Id.* The total amount financed, which included a \$3,999.00 add-on titled "Term Care Select," was \$42,163.02. *Id.* The finance charge for paying over time was \$10,721.70. *Id.* Star Hyundai immediately assigned the Contract to the Plaintiff ("M&T Bank"). *Id.*
- Ms. Luciano agreed to pay for the car by making 84 monthly payments of \$629.58 beginning on October 6th, 2015. *Id*.
 - 8. In 2018, Ms. Luciano's hours were cut at her job, leaving her unable to continue

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making payments on the Vehicle. Luciano Aff. ¶ 4. Ms. Luciano contacted M&T Bank and informed them of her financial situation. *Id.* Ms. Luciano was told to voluntarily surrender the Vehicle, which she proceeded to do. *Id.* After voluntarily surrendering the Vehicle, M&T Bank told Ms. Luciano that that she no longer owed money on the Vehicle. *Id.*

- 9. After this exchange with M&T Bank, Ms. Luciano ceased making her monthly installment payments. Luciano Aff. ¶ 4. Ms. Luciano defaulted on February 6th of 2018 when she missed that month's payment, more than 4 years before the filing of this lawsuit. *Id.* at ¶ 5.
- 10. After February 28, 2018, Ms. Luciano did not receive any communications regarding the Contract or the Vehicle, including any notices required under N.Y. Pers. Prop Law § 316, N.Y. Gen. Oblig. Law § 7-401, N.Y. U.C.C. § 9-611, or N.Y. U.C.C. § 9-616. *Id.* at ¶ 6.

Argument

M&T's Claim For Breach Of Contract Was Not Commenced Within The Statute Of Limitations

Of New York State

- 11. When a claim is barred by the statute of limitations, a party may move for a judgment dismissing that claim. CPLR § 3211(a)(5). If the defendant can establish when the plaintiff's cause of action accrued, they have met their burden and the burden shifts to the plaintiff to show a question of fact as to whether the statute of limitations has expired. Wilson v. Southampton Urgent Med.-Care, P.C., 112 A.D.3d 499, 500 (App. Div. 1st Dep't 2013); Bennie v. Hudson Val. Ctr. at St. Francis, LLC., 115 A.D.3d 899, 900 (App. Div. 2d Dep't 2014).
- 12. Under CPLR § 213(2), actions based upon contractual obligation are to be brought within six years, but there is a carve-out for contracts for the sales of goods under Article 2 of the New York's Uniform Commercial Code ("UCC"). CPLR § 213(2). For contracts under Article 2 of the UCC, a four-year statute of limitations applies. NY UCC § 2-725.

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- 13. Here, the contract that forms the basis of the suit is a retail installment contract for the sale of a car. New York Courts have repeatedly held that retail installment contracts are governed by NY UCC's four-year statute of limitations. *Autovest, L.L.C. v. Nathan*, No. 24033/2012, 2015 WL 1360148, at *1 (N.Y. City Civ. Ct. Mar. 23, 2015); *Orix Financial Services, Inc. v. Hubbard*, No. 1050662006, 2006 WL 8086481, at *2 (N.Y. Sup. Ct. Oct. 08, 2006); *Autovest, L.L.C. v Sentino*, No. 506536/2015, 2016 WL 11759721, at *1 (N.Y. Sup. Ct. Nov. 15, 2016). *See Heller v. U.S. Suzuki Motor Corp.*, 64 N.Y.2d 407, 408 (1985); *Weinstein v. Gen. Motors Corp.*, 51 A.D.2d 335, 337 (1st Dep't 1976) (holding, in the warranty context, vehicle sales are subject to four-year statute of limitations under UCC); *Autovest, L.L.C. v Weems*, No. 34697/2020E, 2021 WL 4862329 (N.Y. Sup. Ct. Sep. 20, 2021). A true copy of *Autovest L.L.C. v Nathan* is attached as Exhibit G. A true copy of *Autovest L.L.C. v. Sentino* is attached as Exhibit H.
- 14. In an installment sale contract action in New York, breach occurs when the defendant misses a payment. *Nathan*, 2015 WL 1360148 at *1; *Jaycent*, 2016 WL 11759721, at *1; *Orix Fin. Servs. v. Hoxit*, No. 101550/06, 2006 N.Y. Misc. LEXIS 2367, at *3 (Sup. Ct. Aug. 1, 2006). A true copy of *Orix. Fin. Servs. v. Hoxit* is annexed as Exhibit F.
- 15. The Contract attached to the Complaint states that Ms. Luciano's payments were due on the 6th of each month meaning the correct date of the breach of contract is February 6th, 2018. Exhibit E. Stated simply, M&T Bank's cause of action accrued on February 6th, 2018 and the statute of limitations for that claim expired four years later, on February 6th, 2022. M&T Bank filed this case on March 20th, 2022, more than a month after the expiration of the statute of limitations. M&T's claim for breach of contract is time barred and must be dismissed with prejudice.

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M&T's Claim for Unjust Enrichment is also Time Barred

- 16. In addition to its breach of contract claim M&T assets a claim for unjust enrichment.
 M&T pleads no additional facts in support of its claim for unjust enrichment, instead realleging the facts that form the basis of it breach of contract claim.
- 17. In New York, there is no established statute of limitations period for an unjust enrichment claim. *Maya NY, LLC v. Hagler*, 106 A.D.3d 583 (App. Div. 1st Dep't 2013). Instead, courts look to the nature of the unjust enrichment claim and apply the statute of limitations for the claim that forms its basis. *Id.*; *Ingrami v. Rover*, 45 A.D.3d 806, (App. Div. 2d Dep't 2007); *Moskovits v. Grigsby*, No. 19-CV-3991 (VSB), 2020 WL 3057754, at *4 (S.D.N.Y. June 9, 2020).
- 18. Here, M&T's unjust enrichment claim is based on a rehashing of its breach of contract claim and the statute of limitations would be the same as the statute of limitations for a breach of contract claim. Because the statute of limitations for breach of contract under the UCC is four years the statute of limitations for M&T's unjust enrichment claim is also 4 years and, like its claim for breach of contract, is time barred. *Herba v. Chichester*, 301 A.D.2d 822 (App. Div. 3rd Dep't 2003); *See Wuhu Import & Export Corp. v. Capstone Capital*, LLC, 39 A.D.3d 314 (App. Div. 1st Dep't 2007).

M&T Failed to Establish a Prima Facie Claim for Unjust Enrichment

19. Under CPLR 3211(a)(7), a party can move to dismiss a claim if the pleading fails to state a cause of action. CPLR 3211(a)(7). When reviewing motions to dismiss, Courts must "accept the facts as alleged in the complaint as true" and accord the non-moving party with "the benefit of every possible favorable inference." *Leon v Martinez*, 84 N.Y.2d 83, 88 (1994).

- 20. In order to establish a *prima facie* claim for unjust enrichment a party must establish adequately "that (1) the other party was enriched, (2) at that party's expense, and (3) that it is against equity and good conscience to permit the other party to retain what is sought to be recovered." *Mandrin Trading Ltd. C. Wildenstein*, 16 N.Y. 3d 173 (2011). A claim for unjust enrichment warrants dismissal if it does not include sufficient facts; "conclusory allegations that fail to establish that a defendant was unjustly enriched at the expense of the plaintiff warrant dismissal." *Mandrin Trading Ltd. C. Wildenstein*, 16 N.Y. 3d 183 (2011); *see also North Salem Psychiatric Servs.*, *P.C. v. Medco Health Solutions*, *Inc.*, 854 N.Y.S.2d 905 (App. Div. 2d Dep't 2008); *Vassel v. Vassel*, 336 N.Y.S.2d 887 (App. Div. 2d Dep't 1972).
- 21. In this case M&T Bank has failed to state how Ms. Luciano was enriched at their expense, and what enrichment she is currently retaining. In the Complaint, M&T Bank only makes the conclusory allegation that "by reason of acts of the defendant, as aforesaid... defendant has been unjustly enriched to plaintiff's detriment." Exhibit A ¶ 10. Ms. Luciano was not enriched; she made monthly payments of \$629.34 to M&T Bank for every month that she had the car in her possession, and voluntarily surrendered the car to M&T Bank before she stopped making payments. Exhibit A; Luciano Aff. ¶ 4. Ms. Luciano has not retained anything, and has not been enriched at M&T's expense. See Mandrin Trading Ltd. C. Wildenstein, 16 N.Y. 3d 182 (2011).

M&T's Unjust Enrichment Claim is an Improper Recasting of Its Breach of Contract Claim.

22. The Court of Appeals has consistently held that "the existence of a valid and enforceable written contract governing a particular subject matter precludes recovery in quasicontract or unjust enrichment for occurrences or transactions arising out of the same matter."

Eagle Comtronics, Inc. v. Pico Prods., Inc., 256 A.D.2d 1202, 1202 (App. Div. 4th Dept. 1998).

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Additionally, an unjust enrichment claim cannot be used as a backstop when a party cannot

prove a viable contract. See Martin H. Bauman Associates, Inc. v. H & M Intern. Transport, Inc.,

171 A.D.2d 479 (App. Div. 1st Dep't 1991)("...quantum merit is intended to avoid a party's

unjust enrichment; it is certainly not a device wherein a plaintiff may enforce a purported

agreement which might ultimately be found not to be viable."); Glinskaya v. Zelman, 128 A.D.3d

7719 (App. Div. 2nd Dep't 2015). Similarly, an unjust enrichment claim that is indistinguishable

from a breach of contract claim cannot be maintained. Benham v. eCommission Solutions, LLC,

118 A.D.3d 605 (App. Div. 1st Dep't 2014)(an unjust enrichment claim that is duplicative of a

contract claim must be dismissed).

23. Here, M&T and Ms. Luciano's relationship was governed by a written contract.

Exhibit E. What is more, the M&T's unjust enrichment claim alleges the exact same facts as

their breach of contract claim, with no substantive unjust enrichment specific allegations. Exhibit

E.

24. Because the Plaintiff's claim for unjust enrichment fails to state a cause of action it

should be dismissed with prejudice per CPLR 3211(a)(7).

WHEREFORE, I respectfully request that this Court grant Ms. Luciano's motion to

dismiss and granting such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: Brooklyn, New York

July 27, 2022

By: Matthew Schedler Esq., Of Counsel CAMBA Legal Services, Inc.

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Attorneys for the Defendant

TO: Kyle C. DiDone, Esq. 1600 Liberty Building Buffalo, New York, 14202 (716) 854-3400 Attorneys for the Plaintiff FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 07/27/2022 05:43 PM INDEX NO. 706898/2022 NYSCEF DOC. 20-2233-EK-RML Document 1-5 Filed 03/22/23 Page 13 of 72 Page 10 Page 13 of 72 Page 10 Page 13 of 72 Page 10 Page 10

SUPREME COURT	OF THE	STATE	OF NEV	V YORK
COUNTY OF OUEE	NS			

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M&T BANK :

Plaintiff, :

: Index No. 706898/2022

-against- : MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN

SUPPORT OF MOTION TO

DISMISS

BLANCA LUCIANO :

Defendant. :

MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO DISMISS

Matthew Schedler Esq., Of Counsel
CAMBA Legal Services, Inc.
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Brooklyn, NY 11226
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Attorneys for the Defendant

TO: Rupp Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham LLC Kyle C. DiDone, Esq. 1600 Liberty Building Buffalo, New York, 14202 (716) 854-3400 Attorneys for the Plaintiff FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 07/27/2022 05:43 PM

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PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

This case involves a threshold question asked in every first year contracts class: is this a contract for the sale of goods? If so, the sale is governed by Article 2 of the Uniform Commercial Code which suplants the common law of contracts. While law school test students with contracts that mix goods and services, here the inquiry is straightforward. In August of 2015 Ms. Luciano bought a car from Star Hydundai. That contract was immediately assigneed to M&T Bank ("M&T"), the plaintiff here. Ms. Luciano made payments on the car for a number of years, but in 2018, fell on hard times. Unable to make payments, Ms. Luciano defaulted in Feburary 2018 and voluntarily surrendered the car.

Article 2 of the NY UCC provides a four year statue of limitations for a breach of contract. The UCC's purpose is to create uniform rules and remove jurisdictional variation. This is especially true in the statute of limitations context where jurisdicational varience is common. The UCC establishes a limitations period of 4 years because it is the period most consistent with modern business practices. In spite of this limitation, M&T filed suit on March 20th, 2022, over a month after the limitations period expired. Because the action was time barred at filing, M&T's breach of contract claim should be dismissed.

M&T Bank also brings a claim for unjust enrichment. Like its breach of contract claim, this cause of action is also time barred. In addition, M&T fails to plead a *prima facie* case or establish any of the elements of an unjust enrichment claim. Unjust enrichment claims are reserved for specific instances where the non-moving party is enriched at the other party's expense, and it is against equity and good conscience to permit the non-moving party to retain what is sought to be recovered. Fundmental to an unjust enrichment claim is the enrichment of the opposing party, but here that has not occurred. Ms. Lucaino is not retaining anything - to

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M&T's detriment or otherwise. M&T is merely attempting to use unjust enrichment as a backstop in the event their breach of contract claim is not successful. But that is not the place of a claim for unjust enrichment; these claims arise in situations of quasi contract, or when a mistake or misunderstanding has occurred. Unjust enrichment claims are not appropriate in situations where a formal contract exists, because there is no need for the court to impose a legal fiction where there is already a legal reality. There is no evidence of Ms. Luciano being enriched at the M&T's expense, and there is a contract that governs their exchange. Therefore, the claim should be dimissed.

FACTS AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On or about August 22, 2015, Ms. Luciano executed a Retail Installment Contract (the "Contract") to purchase a 2016 Hyundai Santa Fe from Star Hyundai, LLC ("Star Hyundai"). Exhibit E. The total amount to be paid was \$52,884.72. Exhibit E. Ms. Luciano agreed to pay by making 84 monthly payments of \$629.58 beginning on October 6th, 2015. *Id.* Star Hyundai immediately assigned the Contract to the Plaintiff ("M&T Bank"). *Id.*

In 2018, Ms. Luciano's hours were cut at her job, leaving her unable to continue making payments on the Vehicle. Luciano Aff. ¶ 4. Ms. Luciano contacted M&T Bank and informed them of her financial situation. *Id.* Ms. Luciano was told to voluntarily surrender the Vehicle, which she proceeded to do. *Id.* After voluntarily surrendering the Vehicle, M&T Bank told Ms. Luciano that that she no longer owed money on the Vehicle. *Id.*

After this exchange with M&T Bank, Ms. Luciano ceased making her monthly payments. *Id.*Ms. Luciano defaulted on February 6th of 2018 when she missed that month's payment. Exhibit

A; Luciano Aff. ¶ 5. After February 6th, 2018, Ms. Luciano did not receive any communications

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regarding the Contract or the Vehicle, including any notices required under N.Y. Pers. Prop Law § 316, N.Y. Gen. Oblig. Law § 7-401, N.Y. U.C.C. § 9-611, or N.Y. U.C.C. § 9-616. Luciano Aff. ¶ 6.

On March 30th, 2022 M&T Bank commenced this case by filing a Summons and Complaint. Exhibit A. On June 13th, 2022 Ms. Luciano was personally served with the Summons and Complaint at her apartment. Exhibit B. On June 22nd, 2022, M.s Luciano filed an Answer *pro se*, in the meantime she called 311 who gave her the numbers for legal services nonprofits that could assist her. Aff. ¶ 7. A few days later, she went to CAMBA Legal Services to discuss her case. Exhibit C; Luciano Aff. ¶ 7. After her intake, CAMBA agreed to represent her. Luciano Aff. ¶ 7. Her attorney from CAMBA entered a Noticed of Appearance on June 24th, 2022 and submitted an Amended Answer as a right on July 7th, 2022. Exhibit D. In her Amended Answer she raised a Statute of Limitations as a defense. Exhibit D ¶ 23.

ARGUMENT

A. M&T's Claim for Breach of Contract is Barred by the UCC's 4 Year Statute of Limitations

When a claim is barred by the statute of limitations, a party may move for a judgment dismissing that claim. CPLR § 3211(a)(5). The moving party bears the initial burden of establishing, prima facie, that the time in which to sue has expired. Benn v. Benn, 82 A.D.3d 548, 548 (App. Div. 1st Dep't 2011). The court must take all the allegations in the Complaint as true and resolve all inferences in favor of the plaintiff. Id. If the defendant can establish when the plaintiff's cause of action accrued, they have met their burden and the burden shifts to the plaintiff to show a question of fact as to whether the statute of limitations has expired. Wilson v.

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Southampton Urgent Med.-Care, P.C., 112 A.D.3d 499, 500 (App. Div. 1st Dep't 2013); Bennie v. Hudson Val. Ctr. at St. Francis, LLC., 115 A.D.3d 899, 900 (App. Div. 2d Dep't 2014).

Article 2 of New York's Uniform Commercial Code ("UCC") governs all contracts that involve the sale of goods. NY UCC § 2-102. Article 2 defines goods as "all things...which are movable at the time of identification to the contract for sale." NY UCC § 2-105(1). Under the UCC, the statute of limitations for a breach of contract claim is four years. UCC § 2-725. In line with this rule, New York's general statute of limitations for contractual obligations has a carve out for contracts covered by Article 2 of the UCC. CPLR § 213(b); NY UCC § 2-725(1). The UCC defines the limitations period by requiring that "an action for breach of any contract for sale must be commenced within four years after the cause of action has accrued." NY UCC § 2-725(1). In turn, "[a] cause of action accrues when the breach occurs, regardless of the aggrieved party's lack of knowledge of the breach." NY UCC § 2-725(2).

Here, the contract that forms the basis of the suit is a retail installment contract for the sale of a car. Exhibit E. A vehicle is a moveable good and retail installments contracts, by definition, are for the sale of goods. Black's Law Dictionary (11th ed. 2019)(retail installment contract are contract[s] for the sale of goods under which a buyer makes periodic payments). This is also established on the face of the contract. Star Hyundai is listed as the "seller" and Ms. Luciano is listed as the "buyer." Exhibit E. The title of the Contract is "Retail Installment Contract (Motor Vehicle- NY)." *Id.* Additionally, under the "Vehicle" section, the Contract states, "you have agreed to purchase, under the terms of this Contract, the following motor vehicle and its extra equipment." *Id.* The "No Cooling Off Period" states the buyer cannot change their mind "even if [they] wish they had acquired a different item." *Id.*

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New York Courts have addressed this issue before and have repeatedly held that retail installment contracts are governed by NY UCC's four-year statute of limitations. *Autovest, L.L.C. v. Nathan,* No. 24033/2012, 2015 WL 1360148, at *1 (N.Y. City Civ. Ct. Mar. 23, 2015); *Orix Financial Services, Inc. v. Hubbard,* No. 1050662006, 2006 WL 8086481, at *2 (N.Y. Sup. Ct. Oct. 08, 2006); *Autovest, L.L.C. v Sentino,* No. 506536/2015, 2016 WL 11759721, at *1 (N.Y. Sup. Ct. Nov. 15, 2016); *Heller v. U.S. Suzuki Motor Corp.*, 64 N.Y.2d 407, 408 (1985); *Weinstein v. Gen. Motors Corp.*, 51 A.D.2d 335, 337 (1st Dep't 1976) (holding, in the warranty context, vehicle sales are subject to four-year statute of limitations under UCC); *Autovest, L.L.C. v. Weems,* No. 34697/2020E, 2021 WL 4862329 (N.Y. Sup. Ct. Sep. 20, 2021).

Like the courts in New York, the highest courts in New York's sister states, including New Jersey, Georgia, Missouri, Delaware, Vermont, and Kentucky, have held that Article 2's four-year statute of limitations applies to retail installments contracts involving the sale of a vehicle. *Assocs. Disc. Corp. v. Palmer*, 47 N.J. 183 (1966); *Suntrust Bank v. Venable*, 299 Ga. 655 (2016); *First Nat. Bank in Albuquerque v. Chase*, 887 P.2d 1250 (N.M 1994); *Worrel v. Farmers Bank of State of Del.*, 430 A.2d 469 (Del. 1981); *DaimlerChrysler Servs. N. Am., LLC v. Ouimette*, 175 Vt. 316 (2003); *Ford Motor Credit Co. v. Arce*, 791 A.2d 1041 (N.J. Super. Ct. App. Div. 2002); *Citizen's Nat'l Bank of Decatur v. Farmer*, 395 NE 2d 1121 (Ill App. Ct. 1979); *Barnes v. Cmty. Tr. Bank*, 121 SW 3d 520 (Ky. Ct. App. 2003); *D.A.N. Joint Venture, III v. Clark*, 218 S.W.3d 455 (Mo. Ct. App. 2006). Because the UCC's purpose is to create uniform rules and remove jurisdictional variation, its interpretation by other state's courts is informative. Official Comment to Article 2-275.

These courts found that the primary purpose of the contracts at issue was for the sale of the relevant vehicles, which are indisputably 'goods' under the UCC's definition. Suntrust Bank

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v. Venable, 299 Ga. 657 (2016); First Nat. Bank in Albuquerque v. Chase, 887 P.2d 1251 (N.M 1994). They also held that the nature of the deficiency actions filed by the Plaintiffs further supported their reading of the contracts as primarily for the sale of goods. Suntrust Bank v. Venable, 299 Ga. 659 (2016); First Nat. Bank in Albuquerque v. Chase, 887 P.2d 1250 (N.M 1994) ("a deficiency action is essentially an action for the price and is, therefore, part of the general sales aspect of the agreement"); 68A AmJur2d Secured Transactions § 565 (2016) ("the action of the creditor to recover a deficiency judgment from a credit buyer of goods is in substance an action to recover the balance of the purchase price and is therefore subject to the statute of limitations applicable to such actions").

The breach of a retail installment contract occurs when the consumer first misses a payment. *Nathan*, 2015 WL 1360148 at *1; *Sentino*, 2016 WL 11759721, at *1; *Orix Fin. Servs. v. Hoxit*, No. 101550/06, 2006 N.Y. Misc. LEXIS 2367, at *3 (Sup. Ct. Aug. 1, 2006). M&T Bank alleges in the Complaint that Ms. Luciano first failed to make a payment, and breached the Contract, on February 28th, 2018. Exhibit A ¶ 6. The Contract attached to the Complaint states that Ms. Luciano's payments were due on the 6th of each month meaning the correct date of the first missed payment is February 6th, 2018. Exhibit E. In any case, both dates are more than four years from the March 20, 2022 date of filing, and the action is time barred under any measure. Stated simply, M&T Bank's cause of action accrued on February 6th, 2018 and the statute of limitations for that claim expired four years later, on February 6th, 2022. *Id.* M&T Bank filed this case on March 30th, 2022, more than a month after the expiration of the statute of limitations. Exhibit A. M&T's claim for breach of contract is time barred and should be dismissed with prejudice.

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M&T's Claim for Unjust Enrichment is also Time Barred.

In addition to its breach of contract claim M&T asserts a claim for unjust enrichment. M&T pleads no additional facts in support of this claim, but instead merely realleges the facts that form the basis of it breach of contract claim. Exhibit A. In New York, there is no established statute of limitations period for an unjust enrichment claim. Maya NY, LLC v. Hagler, 106 A.D.3d 583 (App. Div. 1st Dep't 2013). Instead, courts look to the nature of the unjust enrichment claim and apply the statute of limitations for the claim that forms its basis. Id. In other words, claims based on a breach of contract theory will apply New York's statute of limitations on contracts while claims sounded in tort will be subject to the statute of limitations for torts. Id; Ingrami v. Rover, 45 A.D.3d 806, (App. Div. 2d Dep't 2007); Moskovits v. Grigsby, No. 19-CV-3991 (VSB), 2020 WL 3057754, at *4 (S.D.N.Y. June 9, 2020). Here, M&T's unjust enrichment claim is based on its breach of contract claim, so the statute of limitations would be the same as the statute of limitations for a breach of contract. Because the statute of limitations for breach of contract under the UCC is four years, the statute of limitations for M&T's unjust enrichment claim is also 4 years and - like its claim for breach of contract - is time barred. Herba v. Chichester, 301 A.D.2d 822 (App. Div. 3rd Dep't 2003); See Wuhu Import & Export Corp. v. Capstone Capital, LLC, 39 A.D.3d 314 (App. Div. 1st Dep't 2007).

B. M&T Also Failed to Establish A Prima Facie Claim for Unjust Enrichment

Under CPLR 3211(a)(7), a party can move to dismiss a claim if the pleading fails to state a cause of action. CPLR 3211(a)(7). When reviewing motions to dismiss, Courts must "accept the facts as alleged in the complaint as true" and accord the non-moving party with "the benefit of every possible favorable inference." *Leon v Martinez*, 84 N.Y.2d 83, 88 (1994). The court must

"determine only whether the facts as alleged fit within any cognizable legal theory." *Id.* The court must determine only "whether the proponent of the pleading has a cause of action," not whether they have stated one. *Guggenheimer v Ginzburg*, 43 N.Y.2d 268, 275 (1977).

In order to establish a prima facie claim for unjust enrichment a party must establish "that (1) the other party was enriched, (2) at that party's expense, and (3) that it is against equity and good conscience to permit the other party to retain what is sought to be recovered." Mandrin Trading Ltd. C. Wildenstein, 16 N.Y. 3d 173 (2011). Unjust enrichment is available only in unusual situations when the defendant has not breached a contract or committed a recognized tort, but circumstances create an equitable obligation running from the defendant to the plaintiff. Maya NY, LLC v. Hagler, 106 A.D.3d 583 (App. Div. 1st Dep't 2013). A claim for unjust enrichment warrants dismissal if it does not include sufficient facts; "conclusory allegations that fail to establish that a defendant was unjustly enriched at the expense of the plaintiff warrant dismissal." Mandrin Trading Ltd. C. Wildenstein, 16 N.Y. 3d 183 (2011); see also North Salem Psychiatric Servs., P.C. v. Medco Health Solutions, Inc., 854 N.Y.S.2d 905 (App. Div. 2d Dep't 2008); Vassel v. Vassel, 336 N.Y.S.2d 887 (App. Div. 2d Dep't 1972). Additionally, an unjust enrichment claim will generally not exist when a written contract governs; "the existence of a valid and enforceable written contract governing a particular subject matter precludes recovery in quasi-contract or unjust enrichment for occurrences or transactions arising out of the same matter." See Eagle Comtronics, Inc. v. Pico Prods., Inc., 256 A.D.2d 1202, 1202 (App. Div. 4th Dept. 1998); see also Clark-Fitzpatrick, Inc. v. Long Island Rail Road Company, 258 A.D.2d 905 (App. Div. 4th Dept. 1999).

In this case, M&T Bank has failed to state how Ms. Luciano was enriched at their expense, and what enrichment she is currently retaining. In the Complaint, M&T Bank only makes the

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conclusory allegation that "by reason of acts of the defendant, as aforesaid... defendant has been unjustly enriched to plaintiff's detriment." Exhibit A ¶ 10. The exact kind of conclusory allegation the caselaw forbids. *Mandrin Trading Ltd. C. Wildenstein*, 16 N.Y. 3d 183 (2011). M&T Bank fails to allege any specific facts that demonstrate how Ms. Luciano was enriched by the circumstances of the case. Exhibit A ¶ 9-11.

It is not surprising that M&T does not make these allegations because Ms. Luciano was not enriched; she made monthly payments of \$629.34 to M&T Bank for every month that she had the car in her possession, and voluntarily surrendered the car to M&T Bank before she stopped making payments. Exhibit A; Aff. ¶ 4. Ms. Luciano was never in possession of the car or benefitting from the car during a time in which it had not been paid for. Id. "The essential inquiry in any action for unjust enrichment . . . is whether it is against equity and good conscience to permit the defendant to retain what is sought to be recovered." Mandrin Trading Ltd. C. Wildenstein, 16 N.Y. 3d 182 (2011). But here, Ms. Luciano has not retained anything, and has not been enriched at M&T's expense. Consistent with this principal, the court in American Food & Vending Corp. v IBM held that IBM's early termination of their vending machine contract with American Food & Vending Corp. did not lead to unjust enrichment for IBM. American Food & Vending Corp. v. IBM, 245 A.D.2d 1089, 1090 (App. Div. 4th Dep't 1997). The court reasoned that "because IBM did not keep the vending machines and AFV collected the money from those machines while they were operating at IBM's facilities," IBM was not retaining anything and therefore was not enriched. Id. Here, like in American Food & Vending Corp., the defendant has retained nothing and has therefore not been unjustly enriched.

Successful claims for unjust enrichment involve unique situations where property is transferred by an act of wrongdoing, or without the effective consent of the transferor, or when a

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benefit is conferred deliberately but without a contract. Black's Law Dictionary (11th ed. 2019). Here there is no act of wrongdoing or extra contractual benefit and the case is anything but unique. It is a run of the mill lawsuit for the breach of a contract on the sale of a car. None of the elements of an unjust enrichment claim are plead or present in the fact pattern and the claim should be dismissed.

M&T's Unjust Enrichment Claim is an Improper Recasting of Its Breach of Contract Claim.

The Court of Appeals has consistently held that "the existence of a valid and enforceable written contract governing a particular subject matter precludes recovery in quasi-contract or unjust enrichment for occurrences or transactions arising out of the same matter." Eagle Comtronics, Inc. v. Pico Prods., Inc., 256 A.D.2d 1202, 1202 (App. Div. 4th Dept. 1998). A quasi contract theory such as unjust enrichment "only applies in the absence of an express agreement, and is not really a contract at all, but rather a legal obligation imposed in order to prevent a party's unjust enrichment." Clark-Fitzpatrick, Inc. v. Long Island Rail Road Company, 70 N.Y.2d 382, 388 (App. Div. 4th Dept. 1999). Briefly stated, "a quasi-contractual obligation is one imposed by law where there has been no agreement or expression of assent, by word or act, on the part of either party involved. The law creates it, regardless of the intention of the parties, to assure a just and equitable result." Id. at 389. However, when it is "undisputed that the relationship between the parties was defined by a written contact... the plaintiff is limited to recovery of damages based on the contract." Id. While an unjust enrichment claim may be plead at the same time as a breach of contract claim, an unjust enrichment claim cannot be used as a backstop when a party cannot prove a viable contract. See Martin H. Bauman Associates, Inc. v.

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H & M Intern. Transport, Inc., 171 A.D.2d 479 (App. Div. 1st Dep't 1991)("...quantum merit is intended to avoid a party's unjust enrichment; it is certainly not a device wherein a plaintiff may enforce a purported agreement which might ultimately be found not to be viable."); Glinskaya v. Zelman, 128 A.D.3d 7719 (App. Div. 2nd Dep't 2015). Similarly, an unjust enrichment claim that is indistinguishable from a breach of contract claim cannot be maintained. Benham v. eCommission Solutions, LLC, 118 A.D.3d 605 (App. Div. 1st Dep't 2014) (an unjust enrichment claim that is duplicative of a contract claim must be dismissed).

Here, M&T and Ms. Luciano's relationship was governed by a written contract. Exhibit E. The factual underpinnings of M&T's unjust enrichment claim mirrors and is indistinguishable from their breach of contract claim. Exhibit E. They allege the exact same allegations as in their breach of contract claim, and do not include any unique facts pertaining to their unjust enrichment claim. Exhibit E. Because a written contract governs the subject matter of the unjust enrichment claim, a solution based in quasi contract is inapplicable and M&T's unjust enrichment claim should be dismissed with prejudice per CPLR 3211(a)(7).

CONCLUSION

Statutes of limitations are enacted to protect defendants from unfair litigation. Over time, evidence is lost and the memories of those involved fade. In this case, the UCC as well as existing caselaw make it clear that the statute of limitations on a retail installment contract for the sale of a vehicle is four years. M&T Bank failed to take advantage of the substantial time they had to file this lawsuit and are now attempting to subvert the law and the defendant's rights by bringing a claim that is out of statute.

At the same time, M&T's unjust enrichment claim attempts to apply a legal remedy that is inappropriate for the circumstances and is not supported by any specific facts alleging

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enrichment. The Defendant has already voluntarily surrendered the car and has paid for every month she drove it. The Plaintiff had every opportunity to litigate this case within the statute of limitations but chose not to. Ms. Luciano should not now be punished and denied her rights to a timely action because of M&T Bank's mistakes.

Taking all the allegations in the complaint as true, Defendant has established that for the reasons set forth above, this Court should dismiss Plaintiff's first cause of action as untimely under CPLR § 3211(a)(5) and should dismiss Plaintiff's second cause of action for failure to state a claim under CPLR 3211(a)(7).

Dated: Brooklyn, New York

July 27, 2022

By: Matthew Schedler Esq., Of Counsel
CAMBA Legal Services, Inc.
Elizabeth Miller, Esq., General Counsel
20 Snyder Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11226
(718)-940-6311, ext 79284
Attorneys for the Defendant

TO: Rupp Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham LLC Kyle C. DiDone, Esq. 1600 Liberty Building Buffalo, New York 14202 (716) 854-3400 Attorneys for Plaintiff FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 07/27/2022 05:43 PM INDEX NO. 706898/2022 NYSCEF DOC. NO. 2008 123-CV-02233-EK-RML Document 1-5 Filed 03/22/23 Page 26 of 72 Page 10 1/2 Page 27 Page 28 Page 2

Certification of word count

I hereby certify that the word count of this memorandum of law complies with the word limits of 22 New York Codes, Rules and Regulations § 202.8-b(a). According to the word-processing system used to prepare this memorandum of law, the total word count for all printed text exclusive of the material omitted under 22 N.Y.C.R.R. § 202.8-b(b) is 3,769 words

Dated: June 27, 2022

Brooklyn, New York

By: Matthew Schedler Esq., Of Counsel
CAMBA Legal Services, Inc.
Elizabeth Miller, Esq., General Counsel
20 Snyder Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11226
(718)-940-6311, ext 79284
Attorneys for the Defendant

EXHIBIT A

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STATE OF	NEW Y	YOR.	K		
SUPREME	COURT	т .	COUNTY	OEC	HEENIG

Index No.:

M&T BANK 475 Crosspoint Parkway Getzville, New York 14068,

Plaintiff,

CONSUMER CREDIT TRANSACTION (NON-CREDIT CARD)

vs.

BLANCA LUCIANO A/K/A BLANCA I. LUCIANO 95 04 97th Street, Apt. 2nd Floor Ozone Park, New York 11416,

9309 103rd Avenue, Apt. 2 Ozone Park, New York 11417,

Defendant.

SUMMONS

TO DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE SUMMONED to appear in this action by serving your answer to the complaint on the plaintiff's attorney within the time limits stated below.

Queens County is designated as the county where this action will be tried, because one or more of the parties to this action resides in that county.

TIME LIMITS TO ANSWER:

- (1) If this summons is served by delivery to you personally within New York State, you must answer the complaint within TWENTY (20) days after such delivery.
- (2) If this summons is not served by delivery to you personally within New York State, and not served pursuant to CPLR 312-a, you must answer the complaint within THIRTY (30) days after service is complete.

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(3) If this summons is served pursuant to CPLR 312-a, see accompanying STATEMENT OF SERVICE BY MAIL for time limits to answer.

IF YOU FAIL TO ANSWER THE COMPLAINT within the time stated, judgment will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Dated:

March 22, 2022 Buffalo, New York

> RUPP BAASE PFALZGRAF CUNNINGHAM LLC Attorneys for Plaintiff M&T Bank

By: Kyle C. DiDone, Esq.

1600 Liberty Building Buffalo, New York 14202 (716) 854-3400

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OF QUEENS	
	Index No.:
Plaintiff,	
Defendant.	
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VERIFIED COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, M&T Bank, by its attorneys, Rupp Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham LLC, as and for its verified complaint against the defendant alleges as follows:

- 1. At all times hereinafter mentioned, plaintiff, M&T Bank ("plaintiff"), was and is a New York banking corporation with a principal place of business located at 475 Crosspoint Parkway, Getzville, New York.
- Upon information and belief, at all times hereinafter mentioned,
 defendant Blanca Luciano ("defendant") was and is an individual residing at 95 04 97th Street,
 Apt. 2nd Floor, Ozone Park, New York or 9309 103rd Avenue, Apt. 2, Ozone Park, New York.

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FACTUAL BACKGROUND

3. On or about August 22, 2015, defendant executed a certain Retail Instalment Contract ("Contract"), pursuant to which plaintiff agreed to lend the defendant \$42,163.02, and defendant agreed to repay that amount in accordance with the terms of the Contract. A copy of the Contract is attached as Exhibit A.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION (Breach of Contract)

- 4. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 3 of this complaint.
- 5. Defendant has breached the terms of the Contract by, among other things, failing and/or refusing to make payments in accordance with its terms.
- 6. Defendant failed to pay her February 28, 2018 monthly installment payment and all subsequent payments.
- 7. There is now due and owing the principal amount of \$15,201.78 from defendant to plaintiff with respect to the Contract.
- 8. By reason of defendant's breach of the Contract, plaintiff has been damaged, as of March 22, 2022, in the total amount of \$16,922.12, which consists of \$15,201.78

principal, \$1,082.42 interest, \$637.92 late fees, and \$0.00 miscellaneous fees, along with all costs, disbursements, and attorneys' fees.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION (Unjust Enrichment)

- 9. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 8 of this complaint.
- 10. By reason of the acts of the defendant, as aforesaid, and without any wrongdoing on the part of the plaintiff, defendant has been unjustly enriched to plaintiff's detriment.
- By reason of the foregoing, plaintiff has been damaged in the principal amount of \$15,201.78.

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WHEREFORE, plaintiff M&T Bank demands judgment as follows:

- (1) On its first cause of action, as against defendant, Blanca Luciano a/k/a Blanca I. Luciano in the total amount of \$16,922.12, plus accrued interest, late charges, costs, disbursements and attorneys' fees;
- (2) On its second cause of action, as against defendant, Blanca Luciano a/k/a Blanca I. Luciano in the principal amount of \$15,201.78, together with interest thereon;
- (3) The costs and disbursements of this action, together with any other or further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

Dated:

March 22, 2022 Buffalo, New York

> RUPP BAASE PFALZGRAF CUNNINGHAM LLC Attorneys for Plaintiff M&T Bank

By:

Kyle C. DiDone, Esq

1600 Liberty Building Buffalo, New York 14202 (716) 854-3400

VERIFICATION

STATE OF NEW YORK) : ss.:
COUNTY OF ERIE)
Jasen Davis, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he/she is a/an <u>Vice President</u> of M&T Bank, the corporation named in the within entitled
is a/an <u>Vice President</u> of M&T Bank, the corporation named in the within entitled
action; that he/she has read the foregoing Summons and Verified Complaint and knows the
contents thereof; and that the same is true to his/her own knowledge, except as to those matters
therein stated to be alleged upon information and belief, and as to those matters he/she believes
them to be true.
Deponent further says that the reason this verification is made by deponent and
not by M&T Bank is because M&T Bank is a corporation and the grounds of deponent's belief
as to all matters in the Summons and Verified Complaint not stated upon his/her own knowledge,
are investigations which deponent has caused to be made concerning the subject matter of this
Summons and Verified Complaint and information acquired by deponent in the course of his/her
duties as an officer of said corporation and from the books and papers of said corporation.
On this 25th day of Who, being duly sworn, deposed and said that he/she is a land that he/she knows the contents thereof and that he/she has affixed his/her name with all requisite authority on behalf of M&T Bank.
ANGELA MARIE BERNINGER NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF NEW YORK ERIE LIC. #01BE6376033 COMM. EXP. 06/04/2022

EXHIBIT B

BLANK SPACES NEXT TO THE INSTRUCTIONS PRINTED IN BOLD TYPE. PRINT AND USE BLACK INK ONLY. SIGN YOUR NAME IN THE PRESENCE OF A NOTARY PUBLIC. SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK -COUNTY OF QUEENS M&TBank. Index No. 106998 1 2022 Plaintiff. ANSWER. - against -Blanca Luciano | Blanca T. Luciano As and for his/her answer to the complaint herein, the defendant Blanca Luciano respectfully shows and alleges as follows: _. Admits the truth of the allegations of Paragraph(s) _____ of the complaint. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph(s) of the complaint. ✓ Denies the allegations of Paragraph(s) _____/- 3 ____ of the complaint.

Instructions: FILL IN THE NAMES OF THE PARTIES AND THE INDEX NUMBER. COMPLETE THE

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Received any verification or any Invoice in the passed 4.

acknowledgment or acceptance of the dest. Thave not

INDEX NO. 706898/2022 COUNTERCLAIMS years or any dept luccar was given back to the bank Voluntary, the bank was notify that at hat point of me returning the car I could no longer meet the terms of my loan agreement. Mt bank hever Send me a letter or any invoice I one any outstanding balance. mis point I cannot afford to pay the amount of the WHEREFORE, defendant prays that this Court dismiss the complaint of the plaintiff herein, with costs and disbursements to defendant, together with such other relief the Court finds to be just and proper. Dated: _ 06

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VERIFICATION

RECET DO RESCRIPTION

Bianca Luciano

, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am the defendant. I have read the foregoing answer and know the contents thereof. The same are true to my knowledge, except as to matters therein stated to be alleged on information and belief and as to those matters I believe them to be true. To the best of my knowledge, information and belief, formed after an inquiry reasonable under the circumstances, the presentation of these papers or the contentions therein are not frivolous as defined in subsection (c) of section 130-1.1 of the Rules of the Chief Administrator (22 NYCRR).

Blomen hume 06/22/2

Blanca Lua'ano
Print Name

Sworn to before me this.

22 hal grace 2000

ANNA LISA S. ENRIQUEZ
Notary Public - State of New York
No. 04EN6405207
Qualified in Queens County

Qualified in Queens County
Commission Expires March 2, 202

Notary Public

EXHIBIT C

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SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS Plaintiff / Petitioner: AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE M&T BANK Index No: Defendant / Respondent: 706898/2022 BLANCA LUCIANO A/K/A BLANCA I. LUCIANO Date Filed: March 30, 2022 STATE OF NEW YORK ISS: COUNTY OF NASSAU) The undersigned being duly swom, deposes and says; deponent is not a party herein, is over 18 years of age and resides in New York State. That on Mon, Jun 13 2022 AT 07:59 PM AT 93-09 103RD AVENUE APT. 2, OZONE PARK, NY 11417 deponent served the within NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC FILING (MANDATORY CASE), SUMMONS and VERIFIED COMPLAINT bearing INDEX# 706898/2022 and a date of filing of March 30, 2022 upon BLANCA LUCIANO A/K/A BLANCA I. LUCIANO defendant therein named. individual: by delivering a true copy of each to said defendant, personally; deponent knew the person so served to be the person described as said defendant therein. Corporation: a defendant, therein named, by delivering a true copy of each to personally, deponent knew said corporation so served to be the corporation described, and knew said individual to be thereof. Suitable Person: by delivering thereat, a true copy of each to a person of suitable age and discretion. Affixing to Door: by affixing a true copy of each to the door thereof, deponent was unable with due diligence to find defendant, or a person of suitable age or discretion thereat, having called thereon; at Mailing: Deponent also enclosed a copy of same, in a postpaid sealed wrapper marked personal and confidential properly addressed to said defendant at defendant's last known residence, , to be mailed by first class mail and depositing said wrapper in a post office, official depository, under the exclusive care and custody of the United States Post Office department, with New York State. Mailed on Military Service: I asked the person spoken to whether defendant was in active military service of the United States or of the State of New York in any capacity whatever and received a negative reply. The source of my information and the ground of my belief are the conversations and observations narrated. Upon information and belief I aver that the defendant is not in the military service of New York State or of the United States as that term is defined in either the State or in the Federal statutes. Description: Weight: 161-200 Age: 30-35 Skin Color: Hispanic Gender: Female Relationship: Height: 5'4" Hair: Black Eyes: Black Other Hair=Black with blonde streaks Swom to before me on Notary Public Monica Dopwell 1240610 GINA MARIE EANNUCCI Notary Public - State of New York NO. 01EA5075334 Qualified in Nassau County Commission Expires Mar 31, 2023

1 of 1

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 07/27/2022 05:43 PM INDEX NO. 706898/2022 NYSCEF DOC: NO. 14-CV-02233-EK-RML DOCUMENT 1-5 Filed 03/22/23 Page 42 of 72 Page D #: 97/27/2022

EXHIBIT D

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 07/28/2022 05:59 PM INDEX NO. 706898/202.

NYSCEF DOC 38-01.23-CV-02233-EK-RML Document 1-5 Filed 03/22/23 Page 43-01-72-PageID#: 98//202.

YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS	TATE OF NEW		
•••••		X	Index No.:
M&T BANK		:	706898/2022
	Plaintiff,	:	
- against	_	:	AMENDED
BLANCA LUCIANO		:	ANSWER
	Defendant(s).	:	
		X	

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Defendant Blanca Luciano ("Ms. Luciano"), by her attorney, Matthew Schedler, Esq., Of Counsel to Elizabeth Miller, Esq., CAMBA Legal Services Inc., hereby appears in this proceeding and interposes the following Amended Answer to the Complaint:

- The Defendant lacks sufficient knowledge and information to admit or deny the allegations in paragraph 1 of the Complaint.
- The Defendant admits she is a current resident of Queens County.
- 3. The Defendant denies the allegations in paragraph 3 of the Complaint.
- 4. The Defendant denies the allegations in paragraph 4 of the Complaint.
- 5. The Defendant admits the allegations in paragraph 5 of the Complaint.
- 6. The Defendant admits the allegations in paragraph 6 of the Complaint.
- 7. The Defendant denies the allegations in paragraph 7 of the Complaint.
- 8. The Defendant denies the allegations in paragraph 8 of the Complaint.
- 9. The Defendant denies the allegations in paragraph 9 of the Complaint.

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 07/26/2022 05:59 PM

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- 10. The Defendant denies the allegations in paragraph 10 of the Complaint.
- 11. The Defendant denies the allegations in paragraph 11 of the Complaint.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

Background and the Terms of the Sale

- 12. On or about August 22, 2015, the Defendant ("Ms. Luciano") executed a Retail Installment Contract (the "Contract") to purchase a 2016 Hyundai Santa Fe (the "Vehicle"), from Star Hyundai, LLC ("Star Hyundai") for a total price of \$54,634.72. The Contract attached to the Complaint is not legible, but to the best of our knowledge the cash price of the Vehicle was \$38,866.52 to which a \$1,750.00 down payment was credited. The total amount financed, which included a \$3,999.00 add-on titled "Term Care Select," was \$42,183.02. Ms. Luciano agreed to pay by making 84 monthly payments of \$629.34 beginning on October 6th, 2015. The finance charge for paying over time was \$10,721.70.
- 13. At the time the Contract was executed, Ms. Luciano traded in her 2012

 Hyundai Santa Fe ("2012 Santa Fe"). The Contract assigned a

 \$21,251.15 trade in value to the 2012 Santa Fe. Per the Contract, this

 amount was equal to the remaining balance owed for the 2012 Santa Fe.
- 14. Upon information and belief, the trade in value was not equal to the balance owed on the 2012 Santa Fe. Upon information and belief, the 2012 Santa Fe had negative equity, meaning more was owed on the car than it was worth. Upon information and belief, the car dealer, Star

Hyundai, LLC, inflated the value of trade in to make the sale more appealing to Ms. Luciano and potential finance companies. Upon information and belief, Star Hyundai, made up the lost profit by increasing the cost of the car or by including illusory add-ons.

- 15. Star Hyundai immediately assigned the Contract to the Plaintiff ("M&T Bank").
- 16. The FTC's Rule on Preservation of Consumer's Claims and Defenses

 ("FTC Holder Rule"), 16 C.F.R. Part 433.2, requires that every consumer

 contract contain a clause subjecting holders of the contract to all the

 claims and defenses that the consumer has against the seller. This

 holder in due course language states:

ANY HOLDER OF THIS CONSUMER CREDIT CONTRACT IS SUBJECT TO ALL CLAIMS AND DEFENSES WHICH THE DEBTOR COULD ASSERT AGAINST THE SELLER OF GOODS OR SERVICES OBTAINED PURSUANT HERETO OR WITH THE PROCEEDS HEREOF. RECOVERY HEREUNDER BY THE DEBTOR SHALL NOT EXCEED AMOUNTS PAID BY THE DEBTOR HEREUNDER.

- 17. The contract attached as Exhibit A to the Plaintiff's complaint does not contain this language but also does not include the reverse side of the contract, where additional terms and conditions are contained. Upon information and belief, the holder rule language is on the reverse side of the contract.
- 18. The Contract is for a vehicle Ms. Luciano used primarily for personal, family, and household purposes, and is therefore a consumer contract.

16 C.F.R Part 433.1. Because M&T Bank is the current holder of Ms.

Luciano's Contract, Ms. Luciano can assert any claims or defenses

against M&T Bank that she could have asserted against Star Hyundai.

Repossession and Sale of the 2016 Santa Fe

- 19. In 2018, Ms. Luciano's work hours were cut, leaving her unable to continue making payments on the Vehicle. In order to avoid defaulting on the Vehicle, Ms. Luciano contacted M&T Bank and informed them of her financial situation. Ms. Luciano was told to voluntarily surrender the Vehicle, which she proceeded to do. After voluntarily surrendering the Vehicle, M&T told Ms. Luciano that that she no longer owed money on the Vehicle.
- 20. After this exchange with M&T Bank, Ms. Luciano ceased making her monthly installment payments. Ms. Luciano defaulted on February 6th of 2018 when she missed that month's payment.
- 21. After voluntarily surrendering the car in 2018, the Defendant did not receive any communications regarding the Contract or the Vehicle, including any notices required under N.Y. Pers. Prop Law § 316, N.Y. Gen. Oblig. Law § 7-401, N.Y. U.C.C. § 9-611, or N.Y. U.C.C. § 9-616.

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

First Affirmative Defense

22. The Defendant does not owe this debt.

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Second Affirmative Defense

23. Plaintiff's action is barred by the relevant statute of limitations.

Third Affirmative Defense

24. Plaintiff fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

Fourth Affirmative Defense

25. Plaintiff lacks standing to bring this suit.

Fifth Affirmative Defense

26. The Plaintiff did not dispose of the collateral in a commercially reasonable manner in violation of N.Y. U.C.C. § 9-610.

Sixth Affirmative Defense

[Deceptive Acts and Practices] N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law § 349

- 27. The facts set forth in the paragraphs above are repeated and realleged.
- 28. By falsely representing that the 2012 Santa Fe's trade-in value was equal to the amount still owed on its financing contract, Star Hyundai deceived the Defendant into believing that there was no negative equity on her 2012 Santa Fe. In actuality, the cost of the 2012 Santa Fe's negative equity was hidden in the Contract via the inflated cost of the 2016 Santa Fe and in illusory add-ons. This made the sale of the 2016 Santa Fe appear more appealing to the Defendant than it was.
- 29. Automobile sales and financing are heavily regulated on both the State and Federal levels because of a history of deceptive practices aimed at

luring consumers into unaffordable loans. The Dealer, Star Hyundai, is in the business of selling automobiles to similarly situated customers.

Accordingly, its use of unlawful practices has a broad impact on consumers at large.

30. Plaintiff is liable for the Dealer's conduct under the final paragraph of 16 C.F.R. § 433.2 ("the FTC Holder Rule"). This rule requires that the following language is included in all consumer contracts:

ANY HOLDER OF THIS CONSUMER CREDIT CONTRACT IS SUBJECT TO ALL CLAIMS AND DEFENSES WHICH THE DEBTOR COULD ASSERT AGAINST THE SELLER OF GOODS OR SERVICES OBTAINED PURSUANT HERETO OR WITH THE PROCEEDS HEREOF. RECOVERY HEREUNDER BY THE DEBTOR SHALL NOT EXCEED AMOUNTS PAID BY THE DEBTOR HEREUNDER.

- 31. M&T only attaches the front page of their contract to the complaint, eliminating all the terms and information included on the back of the contract. Upon information and belief, the back of the contract contains the required holder in due course language.
- 32. As a direct and proximate result of the Dealer's acts, omissions, misrepresentations and concealments, Defendant has suffered past, present, and future damages, including damages caused by Star Hyundai's misrepresentation of the 2012 Santa Fe's negative equity. By deceiving Ms. Luciano into believing that her trade in vehicle did not have negative equity, Star Hyundai deprived Ms. Luciano of the opportunity to make an educated choice regarding the purchase of the

2016 Santa Fe. Had Ms. Luciano known that she had negative equity on her previous vehicle, and that the purchase price of the new Vehicle was higher because of that negative equity, she may have chosen to not purchase the new Vehicle.

Eighth Affirmative Defense

33. Plaintiff is barred from recovery herein by the doctrine of unclean hands.

Ninth Affirmative Defense

34. Plaintiff failed to mitigate damages.

Tenth Affirmative Defense

35. The Defendant disputes the amount of the debt.

Eleventh Affirmative Defense

36. Plaintiff is barred from recovery herein by the defense of unconscionability.

Twelfth Affirmative Defense

37. Plaintiff has breached its duty of good faith and fair dealing.

Thirteenth Affirmative Defense

38. The contract may be rescinded due to misrepresentation.

Fourteenth Affirmative Defense

[Failure to Issue Notice of Redemption Rights]
N.Y. Pers. Prop. Law § 316 and N.Y. Gen. Oblig. Law § 7-401

39. The facts set forth in the paragraphs above are repeated and realleged.

40. By failing to provide to Defendant a notice of redemption rights, Plaintiff violated N.Y. Pers. Prop. Law § 316 and N.Y. Gen. Oblig. Law § 7-401.

Fifteenth Affirmative Defense [Failure to Issue Notice before Disposition of Collateral] N.Y. U.C.C. § 9-611

- 41. The facts set forth in the paragraphs above are repeated and realleged.
- 42. By failing to provide Ms. Luciano a notice before disposition of the 2016 Santa Fe Plaintiff violated N.Y. U.C.C. § 9-611.

Sixteenth Affirmative Defense [Failure to Issue Notice of Deficiency] N.Y. U.C.C. § 9-616

- 43. The facts set forth in the paragraphs above are repeated and realleged.
- 44. By failing to provide to Defendant a notice of deficiency, Plaintiff violated the N.Y. U.C.C. § 9-616.

Prayer for Relief

WHEREFORE, Ms. Luciano respectfully asks that this Court enter a judgment

- A. Dismissing the Complaint in its entirety and with prejudice as against costs and disbursements incurred by the Defendant incurred in this action;
- B. Awarding actual and statutory damages, along with reasonable attorney's fees and costs;
- C. Awarding such other and further relief as the Court deems proper.

FILED: OUEENS COUNTY CLERK 07/08/2022 05:59 PM INDEX NO. 706898/2022 NYSCEF DOCS NO: 23-4CV-02233-EK-RML Document 1-5 Filed 03/22/23 Page 51 of 72 Page D #: 106/08/2022

Dated: July 6, 2022 Brooklyn, New York

By: Matthew Schedler, Esq., Of Counsel CAMBA Legal Services, Inc.

Elizabeth Miller, Esq., General Counsel 20 Snyder Avenue, 2nd Floor Brooklyn, NY 11226 (718) 940-6311 ext. 79284 Attorneys for the Defendant

VERIFICATION

State of New York)
) ss.:
County of Kings)

The undersigned, an Attorney duly admitted to practice law in the State of New York, affirms pursuant to NY CPLR 3020 (d) (3) the following statements to be true under the penalties of perjury: That I am the Attorney of record for Defendant; That I have read and know the contents of the foregoing Answer; That same is true to the knowledge of the affirmant except as to those matters therein stated to be alleged upon information and belief and as to those matters I believe to be true. The reason this verification is made by the affirmant and not the Defendant is because the Defendant does not reside in the county where I maintain an office for the practice of law.

By: Matthew Schedler, Esq., Of Counsel Elizabeth Miller, Esq., General Director CAMBA Legal Services, Inc. 20 Snyder Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11226 (718) 940-6311 Attorneys for the Defendant

Dated: July 6, 2022 Brooklyn, New York FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 07/27/2022 05:43 PM INDEX NO. 706898/2022 NYSCEF DOC: NO. 15 Filed 03/22/23 Page 52 of 72 Page D #: 107/27/2022

EXHIBIT E

Interest Rate _____% (For Internal Use Only)

fre cost of your credit as in yearly rate. 6 - 59 % our Payment Schedule will be:	FINANCE CHARGE The dollar amount the credit will cost you.	Amount Financed The amount of credit provided to you or on your behalf.	Total of Payments The amount you will have p have made all scheduled pa	aid after you	Total Sale Price
ur Payment Schedule will be:			have made all scheduled pa	yments.	The total cost of your purchase on credit, including your downpayment of \$ 1.750.00
	\$ 10721.70	\$ 42163.02			\$ 54634.72 st in the Vehicle being purchased.
84 \$	N/A Monthly, beg	nts Are Due ginning 10/06/2015	Late Charge: If a payment full payment amount. Prepayment: If you payment:	ent is more than 1 ay off early, you v	O days late, you will be charged 15% of will not have to pay a penalty.
ing Fees: \$ s below and any other Contra unds and penalties.	N/A act documents for any add	ditional information about nonpaymen	nt, default, any required repay	ment in full befo	re the scheduled date and prepayme e means estimate
s Contract. star HY ELLER. 201-16	NORTHERN BLVD	BAYSIDE NY 11361		Zip Code	This Contract is between Seller and All disclosures have been made by Seller intends to assign this Contract Assignee.
TE BLANCA I	LUCIANO 95-04	97TH ST 2FL OZONE	PARK NY 11416		Cash Price, Downpayment and Trac Cash Price (including accessories, services and t
re is more than one Buyer, e:	ach promises, separately a	Address(es) nd together, to pay all sums due us a this Contract, the following motor vel	nd to perform all agreements is	Zip Gode(s) n this Contract. which is called	\$ 38886,52 Cash Downpayment \$ 1750.00
D Year and Make HYUNDA So		No. Cyl. Truck Ton Capacity 4 3616	Vehicle Identification No. 5XYZUDLBXGG324		Value of Trade-In \$ 21251 15 Lien Payoff
OE-IN: have traded in ollowing vehicle: ZØ12 Year and N	HYUNDAI SANTA	V FE Model			\$ 21251.15 Lien Payoff to: F-Ch Chard C
alance is still owing on the ve any trade-in is free from liens action as the amount of the "l	ehicle you have traded in, t s, claims, encumbrances or Lien Payoff".	the Seller will pay off this amount on r security interests, except as shown	your behalf. You warrant and in the "Cash Price, Downpaym	epresent to us ent and Trade-	Itemization of Amount Finance Unpaid Cash Price Balance \$ 37136.52
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		t Loan Operations, One Buffalo, New Your selow promises separately and together			
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				baseby the Sells	or (a) assigns this Contract to the Ass reapect to this Contract, all warrantie in the Seller, then such assignment st ent, Seller hereby appoints Assignee

NOTICE: SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION.
ORIGINAL - White - BUYER'S COPY - Conary - CO-SIGNER'S COPY - PINK - SELLER'S COPY - Galdenrod

Form MT-RSMVLF-NY (NYS23SLC-1) 4/2/2004 © 2004 Wolters Kluwer Financial Services - BANCO

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STAR HYUNDAI, LLC RETAIL(N) SAMMENT CONTRACT BUYER X (SEAL)	
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Date	
CO-SIGNER NOTICE ree to pay the debt identified above, although you may not personally receive any property, services or money. You may be sued for t, although the person who receives the property, services or money is capable of paying the debt. You should know that the Total of ts listed above does not include Finance Charges resulting from delinquency, late charges, repossession or foreclosure costs, court costs ney's fees, or other charges that are stated in the Contract. You will also have to pay some or all of these costs and charges as required by is of the Contract. This notice is not the writing that obligates you to pay the debt. You have read the Retail Instalment Contract, which is the exact terms of your obligation, and the Co-Signer(s) Notice. a been given a completed copy of this Notice and each writing that obligates you or the Buyer on this Contract.	
of Co-Signer Date Signature of Co-Signer Date	
: YOU SHOULD READ THE NOTICE TO CO-SIGNER ABOVE, BEFORE SIGNING THE CO-SIGNER'S AGREEMENT. 'S AGREEMENT: You, the person (or persons) signing below as "Co-Signer", promise to pay to us all sums due on this Contract and to perform all agreements in this Contract, to be legally bound by all the terms of this Contract, separately and together, with the Buyer. You are making this promise to induce us to make this Contract with the Buyer, I we will use the proceeds only for the Buyer's benefit. You agree to pay even though we may not have made any prior demand for payment on the Buyer or exercised our great. You also acknowledge receiving a completed copy of this Contract.	
Signature (SEAL)	
(SEAL)	
Signature Address Date	
SECURITY AGREEMENT: You, the person signing below as "Co-Owner", together with the Buyer(s) being all of the Owners of the Vehicle, give us a security interest in the led above. You agree to be bound by the terms of the Security Agreement and all other parts of this Contract except the "Promise To Pay" section. You are giving us the st to induce us to make this Contract with the Buyer, and to secure the payment by the Buyer of all sums due on this Contract. You will not be responsible for any deficiency due after repossession and sale of the Vehicle.	
nature Address Date	
ASSIGNMENT es to be bound by all provisions of this Contract. Also, for value received and intending to be legally bound hereby, the Seller (a) assigns this Contract to the Assignee	
I subject to all terms and conditions of the dealer agreement currently in affect between Seller and Assignae and (b) makes, with respect to this Contract, all warranties and set forth in such dealer agreement. Whether or not Seller signs this Assignment, if Assignee takes assignment of the Contract from the Seller, then such assignment shall be without recourse", pursuant to the dealer agreement, and made as of the date of the Contract. For purposes of this Assignment, Seller hereby appoints Assignee as its to supply any missing segature of Seller, hereunder:	
Name of Seller Signature and Title of Person signing for Seller	

No Cooling Off Period

nes not provide for a "cooling off" or other cancellation period for this Contract. Therefore, you cannot later cancel this Contract use you change your mind or wish you had acquired a different item. After you sign above, you may only cancel this Contract for reasons.

VYS23SLC-1) 4/2/2004 Financial Services - BANCO

NOTICE: SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION.
ORIGINAL - White - BUYER'S COPY - Canary - CO-SIGNER'S COPY - Pink - SELLER'S COPY - Goldenrod

Interest Rate _____%

CAXA 1.99 AV 09999 FI/	CLERK 07/	27/2	022 05:4			INDEX NO.	
Case 1.23-EV-02233-EK	-RIVIL DUCUII	ient 1-5	Fileu 03/2	2/23 Page	RECEIVE	PagelD#:	: 07/27
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CO-SIGNER: Any person signing the Co-Signer	's Agreement below promises so				ums due and to perforn	n all agreements in	
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ву:	Ø8/2 (SEAL)	2/2015	BUYER X		(SEAL)	Date	
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Co-Signer's Signature			Address			Date	
Co-Signer's Signature		(SEAL)	Address	 -	·	Date	
CO-OWNER'S SECURITY AGREEMEM: You, Vehicle identified above. You agree to be bot security interest to induce us to make this Co which might be due after repossession and sa	und by the terms of the Securi ntract with the Buyer, and to se	ty Agreement ar	id all other parts of this Co	ntract except the "Prom	ise To Pay" section. Yo	u are giving us t	
Co-Owner's Signature			Address			Date	
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and say the treath and missing the year of the fall have noted to Name of Seller Date Signature and Title of Person signing for Seller

No Cooling Off Period

State law does not provide for a "cooling off" or other cancellation period for this Contract. Therefore, you cannot later cancel this Contract simply because you change your mind or wish you had acquired a different item. After you sign above, you may only cancel this Contract for legally valid reasons.

Form MT-RSMVLF-NY (NYS23SLC-1) 4/2/2004

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 07/27/2022 05:43 PM INDEX NO. 706898/2022 NYSCEF DOC: NO. 16898/2022 Page 56 of 72 Page D.#: 111 NYSCEF DOC: NO. 16898/2022

EXHIBIT F

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 07/27/2022 05:43 PM INDEX NO. 706898/2022 NYSCEF DOC: NO. 706898/2022 Page 57 of 72 Page D#: 112/27/2022

As of: March 16, 2021 4:34 PM Z

Orix Fin. Servs. v. Hoxit

Supreme Court of New York, New York County
August 1, 2006, Decided
101550/06

Reporter

2006 N.Y. Misc. LEXIS 2367 *; 236 N.Y.L.J. 44

Orix Financial Services Inc. v. Hoxit

Core Terms

Excavator, financing, seller, statute of limitations, sales contract, further order, four year, summary judgment, documents, buyer, order of the court, motion to dismiss, time barred, installment, sequence, offsets

buyers failed to make the payment due under the contract and repossessed the excavator. After a public sale, the assignee sought to collect the deficiency from the buyers. The court found that while the contract provided for financing, at its core it was predominantly an contract to sell the excavator. The financing aspect of the contract was secondary and did not convert the contract into an action based upon a promissory note or a financing agreement. Therefore, the contract was time barred by the four-year statute of limitations in <u>U.C.C. §</u> 2-725.

Case Summary

Procedural Posture

Defendant buyers opposed plaintiff assignee's action for summary judgment in lieu of complaint, and brought a separate pre-answer motion to dismiss based upon the running of the statute of limitations in <u>U.C.C. § 2-725</u>.

Outcome

The motion to dismiss was granted, the motion for summary judgment in lieu of complaint was denied, and judgment was entered in favor of the buyers and against the assignee.

Counsel: [*1] For Plaintiff: Lewis M. Smoley, Davidoff Malito & Hutcher, LLP.

For Defendant: John T. Gorton, Gorton & Gorton, LLP.

Judges: Justice Gische

Opinion by: Gische

Overview

Pursuant to a "conditional sale contract note," the buyers purchased an excavator from the seller. The buyer agreed to pay the seller in 60 monthly installments. By separate document, the buyers acknowledged receipt of the excavator and also of the seller's intention to assign the "contract and note" to the assignee. The buyers represented that they had no defenses, offsets, or counterclaims against the seller and waived any claims or offsets against the assignee. One day later, the seller assigned the contract to the assignee. The assignee subsequently claimed that the

Page 2 of 3

2006 N.Y. Misc. LEXIS 2367, *1

Opinion

The decision and order of the court is as follows: Plaintiff Orix Financial Services, Inc. has commenced an action for summary judgment in lieu of complaint (motion sequence number 001). Defendants, Paul Hoxit and James Hoxit have opposed the motion and also brought a separate pre-answer motion to dismiss, based upon the running of the applicable statute of limitations (motion sequence number 002). The motions are consolidated for consideration and disposition in this decision.

Certain facts are established by documentary evidence. On January 10, 2000 Van Lott, Inc. as "seller" and Paul Hoxit and James Hoxit as "buyer" entered into a "Conditional Sale Contract Note". Pursuant to such document, defendants purchased property identified as a John Deere Excavator ("Excavator") at a contract price of \$ 106,200, which was comprised of a purchase price, a transaction charge and a finance charge. The buyer agreed to pay the [*2] seller in 60 monthly installments of \$ 1,770.00 each, commencing January 10, 2000. The seller retained a security interest in the equipment.

By separate document, also dated January 10, 2000, defendants acknowledged receipt of the Excavator and also of Van Lott, Inc.'s intention to assign the "agreement and note" to Orix Credit Alliance, Inc. ("OCAI"). The defendants represented that they had no defenses, offsets or counterclaims against Van Lott, Inc. and waived any claims or offsets against OCAI.

The third document, executed one day later, on January 11, 2000, is the assignment of the Conditional Sale Contract Note by Van Lott, Inc. to OCAI.

Plaintiff, Orix Financial Services, Inc. claims that it was formerly known as OCAI. It further claims that on February 10, 2001 defendants failed to make the installment payment due under the Conditional Sale Contract Note. They claim that as a result the entire amount accelerated and became due. OCAI then repossessed the Excavator and on June 8, 2001, at a public sale, sold it for \$ 35,000. After deducting expenses, plaintiff claims that there is a deficiency due it in the amount of \$ 37,018.44 plus interest. This action seeks such relief.

[*3] Defendants argue that the action is time barred and should be dismissed. In any event, they claim there

are factual issues about the manner in which the Excavator was sold at auction, which warrant denial of plaintiff's request for summary judgment in lieu of complaint.

The gravamen of the dispute between the parties is whether the documents evidence a sale of an excavator or a finance agreement. If the agreement is a contract for the sale of goods, then a four year statute of limitations applies. UCC § 2-725. If the documents constitute a finance agreement, then the longer, six year statute of limitations found in the CPLR applies. CPLR § 213. Application of the shorter statute of limitations would render this action time barred, since this action was commenced in January 30, 2006, which is more than four years after the breach on February 10, 2001. The agreement and the documents that constitute its parts were clearly written by the seller. It, therefore, must be strictly construed against the seller, or here, seller's assignee. Jacobson v. Sassower, 66 N.Y.2d 991, 489 N.E.2d 1283, 499 N.Y.S.2d 381 (1985); Greenfield v. Phillies Records, Inc., 23 A.D.3d 214, 803 N.Y.S.2d 548 (1st dept. 2005). [*4]

While the agreement does provide for financing, at its core it is predominantly an agreement to sell the excavator. Indeed, the agreement itself provides that the buyer had the option of buying the excavator without financing. The financing aspect of the agreement is secondary and does not convert this contract for goods into an action based upon a promissory note or a financing agreement. <u>Levin v. Hoffman Fuel Co.</u>, 94
A.D.2d 640, 462 N.Y.S.2d 195 (1st dept. 1983); Baker v. Norton, 192 Misc. 2d 511, 747 N.Y.S.2d 146 (Sup. Ct. Renssalear Co. 2002).

Since the agreement is primarily one for the sale of goods, it is controlled by the four year statute of limitations. This action, which was brought after the four years had already elapsed, is therefore time barred.

In accordance with this decision it is hereby:

ORDERED that the motion to dismiss is granted in its entirety, and it is further

ORDERED that the motion for summary judgment in lieu of complaint is denied, and it is further

ORDERED that the Clerk shall enter a judgment in favor of defendants and against the plaintiff dismissing the complaint, and it is further

ORDERED that any requested relief not expressly

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granted [*5] herein is denied, and it is further

ORDERED this shall constitute the decision and order of the Court.

End of Document

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EXHIBIT G

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CIVIL COURT OF THE CIT COUNTY OF KINGS	Y OF NEW YORK		
		_ X	
Autovest, L.L.C.	Dlaintiff		Index No.: 24033/2012
-against-	Plaintiff,		DECISION/ORDER
			Present: HON, ROBIN K, SHEARES Civil Court Judge
Juliete Nathan	Defendant.		
		Χ	

Recitation, as required by CPLR §2219(a), of the papers considered in the review of Plaintiff/Defendant's Motion:

Papers	Numbered
Order to Show Cause/Notice of Motion and Affidavits/Affirmations Annexed Exhibits	1 - 2 A - C
Cross-Motion and Affidavits/Affirmations Exhibits	3 - 5 A - S
Answering Affidavits/Affirmations · Exhibits	6
Reply Affidavits/Affirmations	7

Plaintiff filed Motion for Summary Judgment stating that there are no triable issues of fact in that the Defendant purchased a motor vehicle and defaulted on the monthly payments. Plaintiff states that the motor vehicle was sold at auction for less than what was owed, and that the Defendant owes the balance of the loan along with interest and repossession fees. Defendant filed a Cross-Motion requesting leave to amend the pro se answer, to accept the proposed Amended Answer and deem it served and filed, granting summary judgment as this action is time barred, and to deny the Plaintiff's request for summary judgment. The Plaintiff filed an Answer to which the

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Defendant filed a Reply.

Upon the foregoing cited papers, and after oral arguments, the Court DENIES the Plaintiff's motion in its entirety and GRANTS the Defendant's Motion for Summary Judgment, as the Court finds that this matter is time barred.

On November 9, 2007, the Defendant entered into a contract with Tri County Motors whereby the Defendant purchased a 2006 Chevrolet Cobalt from Tri County Motors with the first payment due on December 24, 2007. On November 9, 2007, the contract was assigned to Wells Fargo. Then, on January 6, 2011, the contract was assigned to the Plaintiff, Autovest, LLC (Plaintiff's Exhibit A). While the first payment was due and owing on December 24, 2007, that payment was not made. In fact, the Plaintiff admits in her motion papers that she has never made any payments on this contract.

CPLR §213 states that actions are to be commenced in six (6) years. However, CPLR §213 (2) provides an exception for those actions that fall under Article 2 of the Uniform Commercial Code §2-725 of the Uniform Commercial Code (hereinafter, "UCC"), provides that "an action for breach of any contract for sale must be commenced within four years after the cause of action has accrued." The issue here is whether or not the sale of a motor vehicle falls under the CPLR or the UCC. The Court finds that it falls under the UCC [see Louisa Fazio et al., v. Ford Motor Corp., 69 A.D. 2d 896; 415 N.Y.S.2d 889; (2nd Dep't, 1979)]. Therefore, this matter should have been commenced four years after the breach of contract. In this case, the contract was breached on December 24, 2007 when the Defendant failed to make the first payment on the installment contract. As such, this matter should have been commenced no later than December 24. 2011. However, this matter was filed with the Court on July 26, 2012, seven months after the statute of limitations had expired.

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Therefore, this action is time barred and the Defendant's Motion for Summary Judgment is granted. This matter is hereby dismissed.

This constitutes the Decision of the Court.

Dated: March 23, 2015

HON. ROBIN K. SHEARES

ROBIN K. SHEARES J.C.C. FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 07/27/2022 05:43 PM INDEX NO. 706898/2022 NYSCEF DOC: NO. 18 Page 123-EK-RML Document 1-5 Filed 03/22/23 Page 64 of 72 Page 10 Page

EXHIBIT H

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SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW Y	YORK
COUNTY OF KINGS PART 65	
	- X
AUTOVEST, LLC,	

Index No. 506536/15

Plaintiffs,

- against -

NICODEEN JAYCENT SENTINO a/k/a NICODEEN J. JAYCENT,

 $\label{eq:Defendant.} Defendant. \\ -----X$ As required by CPLR 2219(a), the following papers read on this motion to dismiss:

	PAPERS NUMBERED
Notice of Motion, Affidavit and Exhibits	1
Affirmation in Opposition and Exhibits	2
Reply Affirmation	3

This is an action alleging default on a retail installment contract for the purchase of a car. Defendant moves to dismiss the complaint on the basis that the action is barred by the applicable statute of limitations and because defendant was not served with the summons and complaint. Movant is unrepresented by counsel, however, each page of defendant's affidavit states that the affidavit was prepared with the assistance of MFY Legal Services, Inc but that organization does not represent the defendant in this action.

BACKGROUND

Plaintiff served defendant with the Summons and Complaint in the instant action in May 2015. Defendant did not answer the Complaint. Plaintiff obtained a default judgment against defendant in August 2015. Defendant states that he became aware of the judgment in January 2016 and thereafter moved to vacate the default of

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judgment. That motion was granted with a direction that the defendant's Answer be served and filed on or before June 17, 2016. Defendant annexes an Affirmation of Service of the Answer to his motion within Exhibit F. Defendant states in his Affidavit in support of the within motion at ¶10 that he filed the Answer with the court clerk on June 8, 2016. However he then states in the same paragraph that "[u]pon information and belief, due to an error at MFY's offices, the answer was not electronically filed until July 27,2016". Plaintiff asserts that defendant's Answer should be disallowed by the court as untimely filed.

STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

Defendant argues in her motion that the instant action should be dismissed as it was filed beyond the four (4) year statute of limitations contained in UCC §2-725(2).

Plaintiff argues in opposition that the applicable statute of limitations is the six (6) year period contained in CPLR §213(2). Plaintiff's argument is premised on the "primary purpose" of the subject contract being security for the sale of goods rather than a contract for the sale of goods. Defendant cites to and relies on *Orix Financial Services*, *Inc. v Barnes*, 2007 WL 2825881 (SCNY 2007). However, in that case Judge Holwell in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York applying New York case law and referring to cases in other jurisdictions, holds that a contract such as the one at bar is primarily for the sale of goods to which the four (4) year statute of limitations in UCC§2-725 applies. *See Orix Financial Services v Hoxit*, 2006 NY Misc Lexis 2367 *4 (NY Sup Ct 2006) and Alice A. Baker, Inc v Norton, 192 Misc2d 511 (Sup

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Ct Rensselaer Co 2002). Accordingly, plaintiff's argument is based upon a misreading of the case law on which its argument relies.

The statute of limitations runs from the time of breach no matter which statute of limitations applies. As indicated by the transaction history annexed to plaintiff's motion as Exhibit G, his last payment was on February 20, 2009. As payments were to be made monthly pursuant to the contract, the breach occurred on March 20, 2007. This action was commenced more than four (4) years after that date. It should be noted that applying the six (6) year statute of limitations to a breach date of March 20, 2007, this action was also commenced more than six (6) years after the breach. In its papers, plaintiff argues that the statute of limitations runs from the date that it charged off defendant's account. While not required for the determination of the instant motion, the court believes that plaintiff's argument as to the date on which the statute of limitations begins to run is in error.

The court has reviewed the remaining arguments but need not decide them as the motion to dismiss is granted on the basis that the action was filed after the four (4) year statute of limitations had run. Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED that defendant's motion to dismiss on statute of limitations grounds is granted and denied as moot on the other bases argued. This is the decision and Order of the court.

November 1, 2016

HON. LOREN BAILY-SCHIFFMAN

HON. LOREN BAILY-SCHIFFMAN

INDEX NO. 706898/2022

REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL INTERVENTION

(rev. 02/01/2022)

Supreme COURT, COUNTY OF Queens

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RELATED CASES List any related actions. For Matrimonial cases, list any related criminal or Family Court cases. If none, leave blank. If additional space is required, complete and attach the RJI Addendum (UCS-840A).										
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	Name: Luciano, Bla Role(s): Defendant		MATTHEW SCHEDLER, CAMBA LEGAL SERVICES, 20 Snyder Avenue , Brooklyn, NY 11226, 7189406311 ext 79284, matthewsc@camba.org			⊠ `	YES 🗆 NO			
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Matthew Schedler Supervising Attorney CAMBA Legal Services, Inc. 20 Snyder Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11226 (718)-940-6311 ext.79284 matthewsc@camba.org

July 27, 2022

Clerk of the Supreme Court County of Queens 88-11 Sutphin Blvd Queens, NY 11435

Re: M&T Bank v. Blanca Luciano, Index No. 706989/2022 Motion to Dismiss

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter certifies that the undersigned has agreed to represent the defendant in the above captioned civil action. This letter also certifies that our office, a non-profit legal services organization, has determined that the defendant, Ms. Luciano, is a poor person and is unable to pay the costs, fees, and expenses necessary to defend the above mentioned proceeding.

Accordingly, we request, pursuant to New York CPLR 1101(e), that the fee for filing the motion and the request for judicial intervention be waived.

Should you need anything else, or have any questions, please let me know. I can be contacted at (718) 940-6311 ext. 79284 or via email at MatthewSc@camba.org

Sincerely,

By: Matthew Schedler Esq. Supervising Attorney

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CTERKS 08/02/23
33-FK-RML Document 1-5-Filed 03/22/23 8 70292021 0

CLERK 08/02/2022 11:22 AM 233-EK-RML Document 1-5 Filed 03/22/23 NYSQUEENS County Clerk General Courthouse

88-11 Sutphin Blvd. Jamaica, New York 11435

QUEENS

Blanca luciano a/k/a Blanca I. Luciano 93-09 103rd Avenue, Apt. 2 Ozone Park, New York 11417